



**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services**

---

**Jim Doyle, Governor  
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary**

**For Immediate Release**

June 4, 2009

Contact: Seth Boffeli, Communications Director, (608) 266-5862

**Statement from Secretary Karen Timberlake Regarding  
Wisconsin's First Novel H1N1 Flu Death**

*Patient was Milwaukee Resident with H1N1 Flu and Underlying Health Condition*

“We are deeply saddened by this death and our condolences go out to the patient’s family and loved ones. Today’s news, while tragic, was unfortunately not unexpected. Every year, influenza claims the lives of as many as 700 Wisconsin citizens and this H1N1 virus is very similar to viruses that cause seasonal influenza. Influenza is especially dangerous for individuals with pre-existing conditions which put them at greater risk for complications.”

“The Department of Health Services and our local partners will thoroughly investigate the circumstances of this case to determine which factors were important in the patient’s death as well as what lessons can be learned from this incident.”

“As always, this news should serve as a reminder to the public of the importance of practicing good hygiene and staying away from work or school if they feel sick. Persons at high-risk for complications from influenza should call a health care provider if they have a fever combined with cough, sore throat, headache or body aches. Those at higher risk for complications include: pregnant women, children from birth to age 2, adults 65 years old or older, people with certain chronic conditions, and residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.”

*Wisconsin currently has 2,071 confirmed and 3 probable H1N1 flu cases.*

- END -